

**Open Space Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes: November 3, 2021**

In attendance (ZOOM): Frances Lewis, Kait Logan, Joanna Buffington, Rob Young, Peter Wade, Karen Strauss, Saul Fisher; Chair Lewis opened the ZOOM meeting @ 2:03 pm with role call and welcome to new member Rob Young.

**Minutes of September 15 meeting approved (7-0).**

**CPA Funded Projects Update**

- Sandy Meadow – educational project – no progress since last meeting, but KS will resume this month with development of signage/brochures/maps
- Higgins Project – Trail stewardship app for volunteers/OSC members. Data collection forms for programmer should be in sync with information clarified from priority parcel plans; decision on type of report is needed as well
- Higgins parcel work – trash has finally been picked up by DPW; sign for Higgins property – P. Lagg is looking into what source of funds can be used for design/production by vendor (noted later that the existing Land Acquisition Fund account could possibly be used)

**Conservation Fund (CF)**

- Draft CPA application submitted by Nov 1 deadline – clarification that establishment of the fund is a separate Warrant Article for Town Meeting (requires simple majority) – CPA application is for specific funds to seed, should the Fund be established
- Feedback to KS included (other than minor typos) edits to clarify up front the oversight and possible collaborative resources with the Affordable Housing Trust (Community Housing) - edits made and revised copy shared. Approved 7-0.
- ConsComm will be voting on support next week (after a worksession).
- KS to share electronic copies of most recent PPT presentation and CPA application, for use in requesting letters of support
- FL will share with Aimee Eckman, P Lagg and Chuck Katuska.
- KS will follow up with Groton Conservation Agent re some of the logistics of using the fund (e.g., who signs purchase agreement)
- Letters of Support: To be addressed to Paul Lagg, with title of CPA application and cc to OSC member who solicits; request to get these in by December 1; KL will solicit Climate Action Committee, Recycling Committee; KS will solicit Rec Department, Strat Planning, Scott Kerry; JB will solicit Audubon, The Compact, ECF and Nauset Fellowship; RL will solicit Dog Walkers Assc; SF will solicit 1651 Forrest Committee

**Land Management Priority Plan**

- KL sent updated version – JB identified some corrective edits that KL will make
- Site visit summary data to be considered in sync with the App being developed in the Higgins CPA project (see above) – in interim, any reports made from site visits could be submitted to Amy Blakesley for ConsComm files
- PW will send more detail on South Eastham Conservation Area to KL to include in draft
- Next Steps: FL to request good maps from Paul Lagg to include for each parcel and share draft

with PL, C. Katuska and DPW staff for their review and input (Silvio, Nicole, Mike O'Connor who has been doing most of the work on parcels other than Sandy Meadow); SF to share the Wiley Park plan with 1651 Forrest Committee (Mike Harnett) for input

#### Sandy Meadow

- Chuck K sent plan for input on upcoming work – Bob Cook had responded with details of when safe to use heavy machinery to avoid injuring wildlife (e.g., box turtles) – limit to November – March; JB recommended mid-November as fall has been warm
- Chuck relayed to FL that AmeriCorps team is scheduled for work Monday Nov 22 and 29<sup>th</sup>

#### Wiley Park

- Chuck sent request from DPW on work to clear downed trees and limbs, leaving the results for habitat (vs removing) – which was agreed on; request to clear saplings and vegetation to a 4 foot swath along north border of parking lot gave concern to all – agreement to request site visit to see if 4 feet is warranted for safety (meet with DPW and 1651 representative)
- Friends of Wiley Park group has offered to fund plants and snow-fencing installation for early spring; informal map of area in need will be sufficient to estimate measurements
- FL will share concerns with C. Katuska

#### Old Business


Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) – this should stay as regular agenda item, as priority to get funding for assistance. Reminder that 2016 plan submitted had multiple issues sent back by State, to which Dick Hilmer, formerly with Town DPW, reportedly responded --- the location of the state response and Dick's revisions are not known; FL to ask Chuck and/or Paul to follow up and see if Melissa Cryon is back working in her office and may be able to locate the state response.

FL had sent letter from OSC to Select Board in the spring, requesting that OSC be included in any discussions/plans for Town owned land that is currently undisturbed or may otherwise have implications for open space protection. No response – FL will follow up. KS pointed out that Balwic Place is identified in the updated Housing Production Plan (and Sandy Meadow is not) – and reminded us that CPA supports development of previously disturbed sites, which is in line with OSC. KS shared that the new Zoning Task Force is also looking at this issue with the residential zoning bylaw.

**Next Meeting:** November 17, 3:00.

Meeting adjourned 4:09 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Joanna Buffington

  
approved Nov. 17, 2021